

STIP Project No. U-5720

US 70 from Lynn Road in Durham to west of
T.W. Alexander Drive in Raleigh, Durham & Wake Counties
Upgrade to a Controlled-Access Facility and Convert the At-Grade Intersection
with SR 1811 (Sherron Road) / SR 1959 (South Miami Boulevard) to an Interchange

Addendum Concurrence Point 2 – Design Options for Detailed Study October 12, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this correspondence is to provide the Merger Team with information requested during the Concurrence Point 2 meeting. This information is provided for your information and no additional action is needed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The NCDOT proposes to upgrade approximately 4 miles of US 70 to a controlled-access facility from SR 1921 (Lynn Road) to east of SR 2095 (Page Road Extension) and convert the at-grade intersection of US 70 with South Miami Boulevard/Sherron Road to an interchange. As currently envisioned in the joint Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), US 70 would be converted to a freeway.

PROJECT STATUS: The project is anticipated to be processed as a Type III Categorical Exclusion with FHWA serving as the lead federal agency. A Concurrence Point 1 meeting was held on July 19, 2017 and A Concurrence Point 2 meeting was held on March 13, 2019.

Merger packets are available at: <https://xfer.services.ncdot.gov/pdea/MergerMeetings/U-5720/>

At the Concurrence Point 2 meeting, a Symmetric Widening Concept was discussed but was eliminated from additional consideration by the merger team due to anticipated constructability issues and impacts. Following concurrence, two merger team members (FHWA and NCDWR) requested that the project development team document the estimated impacts of this concept for comparison with the Northern and Southern Widening Concepts, and document why it does not meet the purpose and need.

Following Concurrence Point 2, the Symmetric Widening Concept was developed to the same level of design as the Northern and Southern Widening Concepts in order to compare impacts. (See attached Symmetric Widening Concept Impacts Map.) Table 1 presents a comparison of estimated impacts for these concepts based on estimated slope stakes plus 40 feet. As shown in the table, the Symmetric Widening Concept is estimated to result in more property impacts, including residential and commercial relocations, and more stream and wetland impacts compared to the Northern and Southern Widening Concepts.

While the Symmetric Widening Concept would meet the purpose and need, NCDOT recommends the concept not be carried forward for detailed study (as previously determined) based upon constructability issues and estimated community and environmental impacts, most notably the high number of business relocations.

Table 1: Summary of Estimated Impacts for ConceptsPage 2
Symmetric Widening Concept Impacts MapPage 3

Table 1: Summary of Estimated Impacts for Concepts

Estimated Impacts ¹	Northern Widening Concept	Southern Widening Concept	Symmetric Widening Concept
Human Environment			
Total Number of Parcels (Resid. + Comm. + Indus.)	348	345	397
Residential Relocations	60	54	65
Commercial Business Relocations	52	52	80
Industrial Business Relocations	0	1	1
Church Relocations	2	3	3
Cemeteries	1	1	1
Fire Stations / EMS	1	1	1
Cell Towers / Other infrastructure	1	0	2
Community Features (tennis court, social club)	2	2 ²	2
Schools (Public)	0	0	0
Schools (Private)	0	0	0
Public Parks	0	0	0
Historic Architectural Resources (listed or eligible)	0	0	0
Archaeological Resources (listed or eligible)	0	0	0
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	18	14	18
Natural Resources			
100-Yr Floodplain	0	0	0
500-Yr Floodplain	1	1	1
Protected Water Supply Watershed	1	1	1
Natural Heritage Program Species	0	0	0
Federally-Protected Species	(See Note 3)	(See Note 3)	(See Note 3)
Conservation Properties	0	0	0
Jurisdictional Streams (Linear Feet)	11,557	12,822	13,860
Jurisdictional Wetlands (Acres)	2.53	1.77	3.45
Non-Jurisdictional Open Waters (Acres)	0.76	0.35	0.35

¹ Impacts were determined based upon estimated slope stakes plus ~40 feet.

² The estimated impact to recreational resources was reviewed based on discussion at the Concurrence Point 2 meeting and was changed from “1” to “2” as a result.

³ No Effect - Michaux’s sumac, smooth coneflower; Surveys/survey results pending - dwarf wedgemussel, Neuse River waterdog and Carolina madtom. [This note was revised based on the USFWS list for Durham County updated 6/17/2021.]

